

# Jabez Sanford Hardin

**1877- 1976**

A community leader and pioneer among Georgia educators, Jabez Sanford Hardin served as Columbia County Superintendent of Schools from 1921-1948, including the difficult years spanning the Great Depression and World War II. His educational philosophy and vision laid the foundation for a top-quality education to be within the geographical and financial reach of every young person in Columbia County. From a system of rural, one-room elementary schools with one boarding high school, Hardin directed the county toward a modern consolidated public school system. State school officials regularly sought his advice and counsel, often implementing his progressive ideas, such as free transportation to make education accessible to all students. As a successful merchant and farmer who was called to serve on county delegations that brought local issues to the state and national capitals, Hardin was appreciated for his intelligence, dignity, fairness and courage.

**Quote:**

*"The secret to a long and happy life is simple: Keep your feet warm, your head cool and a song in your heart."* – "Jabie" S. Hardin